



# Plymouth Congregational Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

Service of the Word  
May 21, 2017  
Sixth Sunday of Easter  
10:00 am

## THE GATHERING

### RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE                      Praeludium voor "Laet ons bet herten Reijne"                      J ohn Bull

\*OPENING HYMN                      Immortal, Invisible, G od O nly Wise                      N o. 1

\*CALL TO WORSHIP                      Sarah Whitton

O ne:            We are met in the presence of G od.  
M any:           And we do not meet alone.  
O ne:            With the angels in highest heaven,  
M any:           We gather to worship G od.  
O ne:            With the saints of every age,  
M any:           We gather to worship G od.  
O ne:            With the church throughout the world,  
M any:           We gather to worship G od.  
O ne:            By children and babes at the breast,  
M any:           G od's holy name is praised.  
O ne:            With drums, sitars and trumpets,  
M any:           G od's holy name is praised.  
O ne:            In barrios and basilicas,  
M any:           G od's holy name is praised.  
O ne:            And here, now, with our own hearts and voices.  
M any:           G od's holy name is praised.  
O ne:            We are met in the presence of G od.  
M any:           And we do not meet alone.

WORDS OF WELCOME                      Quinn G. Caldwell

## THE REFRESHMENT OF FORGIVENESS

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Please share a sign of peace with those around you.*

\*PRAISE SONG (unison)                      A Repeating Alleluia                      Calvin Hampton

*\*Please rise if you are able*



Used by permission

## THE GIFT OF THE WORD

STORY FOR ALL AGES

Liz Pruchnicki

*After the story, kids can head upstairs with Liz for Chapel Time*

ANTHEM

If Ye Love Me

Thomas Tallis

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

One: Holy One, you appeared when they least expected you.

Many: Now when we long for you, come to us and reveal yourself.

SCRIPTURE

Acts 1:3-11

\*HYMN

Hail the Day that Sees Christ Rise

No. 260

SERMON

## THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*There are several beloved versions of this prayer. In an effort to pray in unison while respecting the different versions that many of us have prayed since childhood, we will cycle through the different versions over the course of a year. We will pray using "debts" through the end of summer.*

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

CALL TO THE OFFERING

*Today and throughout the month of May, we are receiving a special offering for the ongoing work of the United Church of Christ: The Strengthen the Church Offering. Checks made out to Plymouth and marked Strengthen the Church, or any offering put in the specially marked envelopes in the pews, will go to plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.*

*Offerings not so marked will go to do all that same work and more locally, here at Plymouth.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Will Not Leave You Comfortless

William Byrd

\*DOXOLOGY

*Lasst uns Erfreuen*

Praise G od, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise G od, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise H oly Spirit evermore;  
O ne G od, triune, whom we adore!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*CLOSING HYMN Alleluia! G racious J esus! No. 257

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Voluntary in a minor iii) Allegro J ohn Stanley



 Plymouth Runs O n Y O U 

GREETERS: Leela George and Maria Polsinelli LITURGIST: Sarah Whitton  
USHERS: Bill Bucher and Keith J akway ACO LYTE: Emily Philips  
FLOWERS given by Linda Milosky and Shiu-Kai Chin “in celebration of  
Plymouth Church where we were married 15 years ago.”  
OFFERING COUNTERS: Elaine Wolf and Keith J akway

*You can volunteer for many of these ministries via the Plymouth website [www.plymouthsyr.org](http://www.plymouthsyr.org). Go to the “Get Involved” page and click on the link above the choir photo.*

Hospitality Ministry – Please consider serving as a host for Community Time. There is a sign-up chart in the bell tower entrance. It’s easy and we’ll help you!

Flowers – Make our worship space even more beautiful for the glory of God and in honor of whatever you choose. A sign-up sheet is found in the bell tower entry. The cost is \$25, but plans for larger or multiple arrangements can always be made.

Accessibility: Individual listening headsets are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Please contact one of the ushers for help. An elevator and ramp are available. LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY.

Welcoming Children in Worship: Children of all ages have a place in worship and in the life of the church. Nursery care is offered at 10:00 am for infants. Sound is piped into Memorial Hall next door to the Sanctuary for those who would welcome a space apart.

Worship Clipboards: Worship clipboards with age-appropriate bulletins and coloring paper are available in the back of the Sanctuary for our elementary aged children as a support to their attendance in worship. We hope you will find these clipboards a welcoming and supportive means of engaging your children during the worship service.

There is ample free street parking on the blocks around our church on Sundays, as well as in the lots behind the Catholic diocese building. For those able to walk a short distance, parking here will allow those with mobility impairments or small children to use the spots directly in front of the church.

## TODAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP...

Plymouth Congregational Church welcomes the



### 41<sup>st</sup> Annual FESTIVAL

Come downstairs to Kirtland Hall immediately after worship and join us for food, fellowship, plants and games for Plymouth's 41<sup>st</sup> annual Heifer Festival! This year, with continued support from Watson's Greenhouse, the plant sale will be held in the Adult Education room. Linda Kraemer and Janet Bucher are preparing a lunch of meatball subs and tossed salad with tons of cookies and goodies! There are vegetarian and gluten free options as well. And for the kids, the Christian Formation board has put together activities that will educate and entertain. If you wish to support an international program that empowers women, feeds the hungry and gives children an opportunity to go to school, please join us to support the Heifer Festival TODAY! For lunch, there is a \$5 suggested donation or \$20 per family. All proceeds will benefit Heifer International.

This year, Plymouth is especially excited about Heifer Festival because the youth will be doing their annual mission trip to the Heifer farm in Rutland, Massachusetts. Please be aware: Any donations collected on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Heifer Festival will support the work and mission of Heifer International. Youth Mission Trip fundraisers are conducted separately.

### 🎵 Music Notes for May 21, 2017 🎵

We have over two thousand anthems in our Plymouth Music Library, all catalogued by title, composer, author, style, performing forces, scripture reference and subject. This Sunday, both anthems come from the English Renaissance period. I decided to choose organ music from this same period.



If you think that the main purpose of music is to be beautiful, calming and inoffensive, then Renaissance music is for you! The conventions of the time were that no two notes could be sounded together unless they were free of dissonance. However, dissonance is needed to give music a reason to move forward, so to create dissonance, two consonant notes were sounded, one moved to a dissonance on a strong beat and the other resolved the dissonance on the following weak beat by moving stepwise to a resolution. Also, each part of the music (soprano, alto, etc.) had to be equally melodic – no giving the melody to one part and consigning everyone else to a supportive harmony. In all, these “rules” produced music that was flowing, and seamless.

Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585) and William Byrd (c.1540-1623) were both given the exclusive rights to publish vocal music in England for twenty-one years by Queen Elizabeth I. That they were

given these rights during such religiously turbulent times - they were both Catholics while Elizabeth, of course, was head of the Anglican church - shows how much their work was respected.

Organs first appeared in England during the sixteenth century. Tallis and Byrd never wrote for the instrument – probably because all keyboard instruments are inherently out of tune with themselves (to get all the ratios of vibrations correct between various notes you would need an infinite number of pipes.) Because the Renaissance valued pure tuning so much, organs were less popular. Our prelude is a setting and variation on a Dutch carol by John Bull (c. 1562 – 1628) which was originally intended for harpsichord. He served as organist at Hereford Cathedral, at the Chapel Royal, and also as a spy in Brussels for Elizabeth! In 1613, he fled England and lived the rest of his life in Antwerp.

Our postlude was written a hundred years after the Renaissance by the blind organist John Stanley (1713-1786). By this time, all English churches had organs, and the organ Voluntary was an established part of the Anglican service. The *cornet* stop, featured as the solo for most of this voluntary, was one of the most popular sounds of the English Baroque organ.

## ✿ About Plymouth ✿

Plymouth was founded in 1853 by a group of Syracusans who wanted to create a Christian abolitionist bulwark in the city. Since then, we have fought against slavery, poverty, and war; for immigrants', natives', workers', LG BT, and women's rights; and sought to be agents of mercy in a hurting world. We believe in beauty, laughter, the struggle for peace with justice, taking risks for God, and the Way of Jesus Christ.

Our faith is over 2,000 years old; our thinking is not!

We are Open and Affirming We believe God calls us to welcome all people and their gifts regardless of gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, physical ability, socioeconomic status, or religious background.

We are Just Peace We covenant to live actively within the holy longing that weds justice with the quest for peace – within us, between us, in community, and across the globe. We covenant to affirm the sacredness of all life and to honor and preserve creation.

We are Sanctuary We provide a space of physical, emotional, and spiritual safety for immigrants without documents, and specifically pledge to the principles of the national New Sanctuary Movement.

We are Progressive Christians We try to walk in the way of Jesus Christ, our brother and savior. We believe God speaks new meanings for new days, and that She does so not only in the church and the ancient words of the Bible, but through the insights of science, the arts, the revelations of other religions, and the best strivings of the human spirit. We believe God has granted us a purpose, and that life is too short for long-faced religion. Join us!

Rev. Quinn G. Caldwell, Pastor  
Dr. Joseph Downing, Director of Music  
Liz Pruchnicki, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries  
Kathy Ferro, Church Administrator  
Mark Johnson, Sexton

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